AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please **cancel claims 22-31, 34, 44 and 49-52** without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth herein.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 22~~ A method for preparing an electrophoretic separation article comprising:

i) providing a support comprising a silicon-containing material and washing at least a portion of a surface of said support for contacting an electrophoretic matrix with a weakly alkaline solution; and

ii) filling or coating said support with an electrophoretic matrix;

thereby obtaining an electrophoretic separation article;

in which the electrophoretic matrix is a composition comprising acrylamide or a derivative thereof or a polymer thereof, and at least two organic solvents.

29-31. (canceled)

32. (**currently amended**) An electrophoretic gel comprising a polyacrylamide polymer or a polymer comprising an acrylamide derivative, and two or more organic solvents~~The electrophoretic gel of claim 29~~, in which one of the organic solvents is formamide.

33. (**currently amended**) The electrophoretic gel of claim ~~31~~32, in which a second organic solvent is ~~formamide~~an alcohol.

34. (**currently amended**) The electrophoretic gel of claim ~~29~~32, which further comprises a water-soluble polymer.

35. (**previously presented**) The electrophoretic gel of claim 34, in which the water-soluble polymer is a dextran, polyethylene glycol or cellulose.

36. (**previously presented**) A process for preparing an electrophoretic gel comprising polymerizing a composition comprising acrylamide or a derivative thereof in the presence of at least two organic solvents.

37. (**previously presented**) The process of claim 36, in which the composition comprises a derivative of acrylamide that is N,N'-dimethylacrylamide or N-(hydroxymethyl)acrylamide.

38. (**previously presented**) The process of claim 36, in which one of the organic solvents is an alcohol.

39. (**previously presented**) The process of claim 38, in which the alcohol is methanol.

40. (**previously presented**) The process of claim 36, in which one of the organic solvents is formamide.

41. (**previously presented**) The process of claim 38, in which a second organic solvent is formamide.

42. (**previously presented**) The process of claim 36, in which the composition further comprises a water-soluble polymer.

43. (**previously presented**) The process of claim 42, in which the water-soluble polymer is a dextran, polyethylene glycol or cellulose.

44. (**canceled**)

45. (**previously presented**) A process for electrophoretic separation of a sample comprising applying said sample to an

electrophoretic separation article comprising an electrophoretic gel comprising a polyacrylamide polymer or a polymer comprising an acrylamide derivative, and two or more organic solvents, and separating the sample by applying an electric field electrohoretic separation article.

46. (**previously presented**) The process of claim 45, in which the electrophoretic gel further comprises a dextran, polyethylene glycol or cellulose.

47. (**previously presented**) The process of claim 45, in which the sample comprises a nucleic acid or a peptide nucleic acid.

48. (**allowed**) The method of claim 45, in which the sample comprises a DNA or a RNA.

49. (**currently amended**) The method of claim 45, in which the ~~polar~~ organic solvent comprises formamide or an alcohol or a mixture thereof.

50. (**previously presented**) The method of claim 49 in which the alcohol is methanol.

51-52. (canceled)

53. (new) The electrophoretic gel of claim 33, in which the alcohol is methanol.